

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed March 24, 2010 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-26 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25, and 26 stand rejected. Claims 13-24 have been withdrawn by the Examiner from further consideration. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, and 25 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korean Reference KR2003055965 to Je ("Je") in view of U.K. Patent Application Publication No. GB4043158 to Huttemann ("Huttemann") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,118,297 to Olding ("Olding") is respectfully traversed.

To the extent understood, Je describes a bleach input apparatus for a washing machine. The input apparatus includes a storage unit (40) with a bleaching agent chamber (41) and a softening agent chamber (42). A partition (46) separates the chambers (41 and 42), and a siphon pipe (43 and 43') extends from an interior of each chamber (40 and 41), respectively, to a pass station (65) of a tub cover (60). Je also describes a cover (30) for the storage unit (40). To the extent understood, in Drawing 2, Je further describes the cover (30) as being removably coupled to the storage unit (40). Notably, however, Je does not describe or suggest the cover (30) as having an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the cover (30). Je also does not describe the upper siphon fitting as being removably coupled to a lower siphon fitting on a reservoir.

Huttemann describes a program for controlling a washing machine water inflow. The program includes a washing machine having a drum (1) mounted in a tank (2), a control device (3), a central processor unit (4), and a magnetic valve (6). The magnetic valve (6) opens to allow water flow until a predetermined nominal level (N_1) is reached. Upon reaching N_1 , the magnetic valve (6) is closed and the washing movement of drum (1) begins. During the washing machine movement, the water level in the tank drops due to absorbency. If the water level reaches a reconnection point (N_R), the magnetic valve (6) reopens to restore the water level to N_1 . Notably, Huttemann does not describe or suggest a cover for a reservoir as having an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the cover.

Huttemann also does not describe the upper siphon fitting as being removably coupled to a lower siphon fitting on a reservoir.

Olding describes an automatic washer that includes a cabinet (20), an outer splash tub (34), an extractor wash tub (32), and a bleaching agent conduit (82). The bleaching agent conduit (82) introduces an undiluted bleaching agent into tub (34) so that the bleaching agent can be diluted inside of tub (34) before coming into contact with clothes within tub (32). (Column 3, Lines 21-63). Notably, Olding does not describe or suggest a cover for a reservoir as having an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the cover. Olding also does not describe the upper siphon fitting as being removably coupled to a lower siphon fitting on a reservoir.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an additive dispensing system for a washing machine comprising “a reservoir removably coupled to said top cover and configured to contain an additive, said reservoir comprising a removable reservoir cover having an upper siphon fitting extending downwardly from said reservoir cover and a lower siphon fitting removably coupled with said upper siphon fitting.”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describe or suggest an additive dispensing system for a washing machine as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describe or suggest a cover for a reservoir as having an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the cover, and that is removable coupled to a lower siphon fitting on a reservoir.

Accordingly, Applicants submit Claim 1 to be patentable over Je in view of Huttemann and further in view of Olding.

Claims 3-6 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 3-6 likewise are patentable over Je in view of Huttemann and further in view of Olding.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite a washing machine comprising “a top cover . . . a reservoir removably coupled to said top cover and configured to contain an additive, said reservoir comprising a removable reservoir cover having an upper siphon fitting extending

downwardly from said reservoir cover and a lower siphon fitting removably coupled with said upper siphon fitting.”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describe or suggest a washing machine as recited in Claim 7. More specifically, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describe or suggest a cover for a reservoir as having an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the cover, and that is removable coupled to a lower siphon fitting on a reservoir.

Accordingly, Applicants submit Claim 7 to be patentable over Je in view of Hutteman and further in view of Olding.

Claims 9-12 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 9-12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 9-12 likewise are patentable over Je in view of Huttemann and further in view of Olding.

Claim 25 has been amended to recite an additive dispensing system for a washing machine comprising “a reservoir configured to contain an additive and removably coupled to said reservoir cover, said reservoir comprising a lower siphon fitting coupled with said upper siphon fitting.”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describe or suggest a washing machine as recited in Claim 25. More specifically, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describe or suggest a cover for a reservoir as having an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the cover, and that is removable coupled to a lower siphon fitting on a reservoir.

Accordingly, Applicants submit Claim 25 to be patentable over Je in view of Hutteman and further in view of Olding.

Claim 26 depends from Claim 25. When the recitations of Claim 26 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 25, Applicants submit that Claim 26 is likewise patentable over Je in view of Huttemann and further in view of Olding.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 103 rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25, and 26 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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